



FLYING ARTS ALLIANCE INC CASE FOR SUPPORT 2017

WHAT WE DO

Flying Arts Alliance connects with artists, educators and communities. We inspire the appreciation, practice and professional development of visual arts as a lifetime interest or career. We do this by developing and facilitating contemporary art and cultural practice in remote, rural and regional Queensland.

Flying Arts Alliance is unique. We work to remove the barriers that prevent access to art experiences and initiatives while enabling communities to develop local creative capital.

Our *By Request Program* delivers services directly to communities throughout Queensland rather than expecting people to travel to major centres. Schools and creative communities, such as art groups, organisations, festivals, local governments and galleries, have access to our touring exhibitions, workshops, residencies, events and projects.

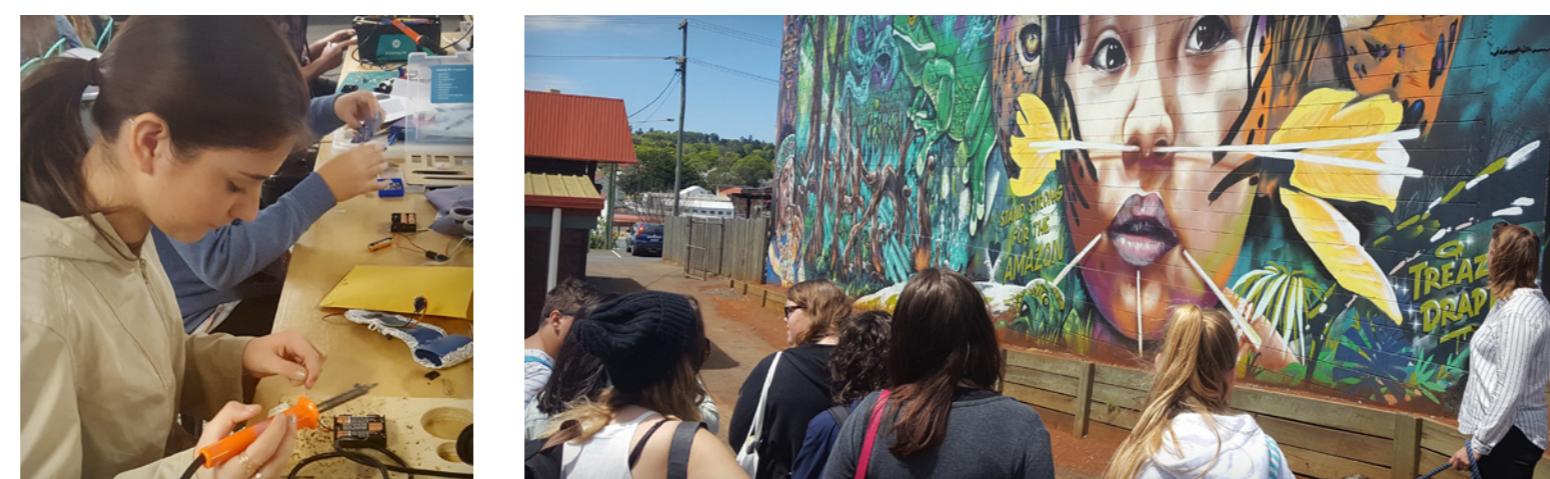
Individual artists and educators can connect with our comprehensive range of professional development opportunities to expand their abilities, explore career options, increase business acumen and extend teaching capabilities.

Our *Young Artist Residencies* are tailored for young people at the formative stage of their artistic and arts-driven pursuits, offering explorations in cutting edge art forms. These immersion programs are designed to illuminate career pathways by connecting young people from across Queensland with leaders in the arts industry.

The *Queensland Regional Arts Awards* is a mainstay of our annual program. It provides young, emerging and established artists living in remote, rural and regional Queensland with the opportunity to build an arts profile, exhibit their work and win prizes. Each year an expert judging panel selects the best and most appropriate works to tour to galleries across Queensland.

In 2016, Flying Arts Alliance held over 200 individual activities, with 3,600 participants and 29,000 exhibition attendees across 64 regional and metropolitan locations state-wide and online.

To lead good lives, we need not only lightbulbs and telephone lines, chemicals and stock exchanges, we also need to be consoled in our griefs, guided towards wisdom, opened up to self-knowledge, calmed in our anxieties, given new hope and introduced to wider horizons: all tasks for which the practical tool known as art is eminently suited.¹



WHY IS OUR WORK IMPORTANT?

People living in remote, rural and regional Queensland experience social, logistical, health and well-being challenges. For those involved in the arts, these challenges are exacerbated by the lack of access to resources and opportunities and sometimes by the low value placed on art as a career choice. Some artists remain in rural, regional and remote locations due to necessity. Others choose to make these locations their home due to the favourable working conditions non-metropolitan areas provide, such as quieter studio spaces more conducive to their creative practice, for instance.³

Our work is important because we provide professional development training, resources and opportunities for artists, young people, educators and communities who have the least access. We offer innovative art experiences and facilitate demand-driven activities to support a rich artistic and creative culture throughout Queensland.

The arts provide a meaningful platform for people to engage with and express community issues. Engagement with the arts has been shown to enhance participation and creativity in public decision-making, strengthen community capacity, and support identity and sense of place.⁴ By establishing stronger connections to and within communities, the arts have a proven ability to improve overall wellbeing, stimulate economic activity, build resilience and revitalise communities.

The arts have a long tradition of shaping our society and an important part to play in our future. They help define and negotiate who we are, what we believe in, what we value and what we aspire to. The arts inspire Australians and help us express ourselves to other people. The arts play a central role in creating and maintaining culture and society in Australia.²

¹http://www.thebookoflife.org/art-for-arts-sake/?mc_cid=3250ec1476&mc_eid=3c815d3a74

² Throsby, D. & Hollister, V. 2003, 'Don't Give Up Your Day Job: An Economic Study of Professional Artists in Australia', Division of Economic and Financial Studies Macquarie University, Sydney

³ Anwar McHenry, J. 2009, 'A place for the arts in rural revitalisation and the social wellbeing of Australian rural communities', *Rural Society*, Vol. 19, No. 1, 2009, p. 60-70.

Top: Program participants, Mt Sylvia State School and Gympie. Credit: Therese Flynn-Clarke

Centre: Participants at By Request workshop, Betoota. Credit: Therese Flynn-Clarke

Lower Centre: Participants at Young Artist Residencies. Credit: Elysha Rei

Bottom: Patrons at the Queensland Regional Art Awards Brisbane Exhibition Launch, 2017. Credit: Louis Lim



Above: Young Artist Residency Instructors and Participants. Credit: Elysha Rei



WHY SUPPORT FLYING ARTS ALLIANCE?

Our model is successful because we support the development of individual artists, and the communities in which they live and work. We assist educators to provide quality art experiences in the classroom, and support them to mentor the next generation of young artists. We facilitate art experiences, creative initiatives and exhibitions for communities across Queensland.

Our mode of delivery is distinct because it is demand-driven and responsive to the needs of those it services. Flying Arts Alliance is highly regarded across Queensland and has built a reputation for quality and excellence in the visual arts over 45 years.

Active investment and strategic support of the arts in regional areas has been proven to result in three-fold return on that investment.⁵ With your support, Flying Arts Alliance can:

- Extend our *Young Artist Residencies* to more talented young artists in more locations. We will be able to provide scholarships and employ additional arts industry leaders to connect with participants. Each Young Artist Residency inspires and encourages more young people to explore opportunities for future practice, education and careers in the arts. Young Artist Residencies are conducted in collaboration with local universities and cultural hubs.
- Expand our *Queensland Regional Art Awards*. We will increase the value of awards offered and amplify the Awards significance and reach. The Awards provide emerging and established artists living in regional Queensland with opportunities to exhibit their work in an annual tour, to build a network of peers, to connect with new audiences and build their professional profile.
- Enable more *By Request Programs* to be delivered to isolated and in need Queensland communities. Through this program, communities can request visual arts and arts business workshops, projects and exhibitions, designed to meet the specific needs of each location, while building both individual and community capacity.

Join us as we continue to inspire and support artists, educators and communities across Queensland, by providing opportunities to participate in quality art programs. Together we can encourage Queenslanders to sustain a lifelong interest or career in the arts, regardless of age, background or location.

⁵ Tresize (2007) in Developing and Revitalizing Rural Communities Through Arts and Creativity: AUSTRALIA' Kim Dunphy Cultural Development Network Victoria, Australia

Cover Image: Program participant, Wowan State School. Credit: Therese Flynn-Clarke



Flying Arts Alliance is listed in the Registration of Cultural Organisations, and has Deductible Gift Recipient and Tax Charity Concession status. All donation above \$2 are tax deductible.

For more information, please visit our website at www.flyingarts.org.au or alternatively, please contact our Executive Officer, Kerryanne Farrer, at ceo@flyingarts.org.au or on 07 3216 1322.

